

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, BA, QA

SUBJECT: BORDER DISPUTES BETWEEN QATAR AND BAHRAIN

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM AN OFFICER OF KOCH OIL COMPANY, WHICH IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GERMAN FIRM OF WINTERSHALL TO EXPLORE IN OFFSHORE CONCESSION AREA GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR. EXPLORATION WORK HAS BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE OF BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN QATAR AND BAHRAIN OVER HWAR ISLAND. ACCORDING TO KOCH OFFICER, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM CONSULTATIONS WITH GERMAN PARTNER, A SETTLEMENT OF THE LONG-FESTERING BORDER DISPUTES IN THE AREA HAS BEEN WORKED OUT. THE REPORTED TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT CALL FOR QATAR TO CEDE THE ISLANDS OF FAHT AL DIBAL AND KATAH AL JARADEL TO BAHRAIN. IN RETURN, BAHRAIN WILL REPORTEDLY RELINQUISH MINERAL RIGHTS IN AREAS FORMALLY

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CLAIMED AS BAHRAINI TERRITORIAL WATERS. KOCH IS CONCERNED

AT REPORTED SETTLEMENT BECAUSE FIRM'S NEXT DRILLING
SCHEDULED NEAR FAHT AL DIBAL ISLAND, AND THE JOINT VENTURE
PARTNER HAD PLANNED TO USE ISLAND AS BASE FOR ITS DRILLING
OPERATION.

2. WITHOUT RAISING THE SUBJECT WITH HOST GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INDICATIONS
ADDRESSE POSTS MIGHT HAVE OF MOVEMENT ON BORDER DISPUTE

BETWEEN QATAR AND BAHRAIN. NEGATIVE RFPORIS REQUESTED.
KISSINGER

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